

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1.    An interworking node operatively connectable to  
2    a plurality of call control nodes each including switching  
3    intelligence and narrowband switching fabric and a  
4    plurality of connection control nodes each including  
5    broadband switching fabric and each being capable of  
6    processing a communication using one of a plurality of  
7    formats, said interworking node comprising:  
8                means for interworking between said plurality of  
9    call control nodes and said plurality of connection  
10   control nodes; and  
11               a database for linking a particular one of said  
12   plurality of connection control nodes with a corresponding  
13   one of said plurality of formats.

1           2.    The system of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of  
2    formats comprises at least one format in accordance with  
3    the H.248 standard.

1           3.    The system of Claim 2, wherein said plurality of  
2    formats comprises a binary format and a text format.

1           4.    The system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   means for receiving a communication from said  
3    particular connection control node;  
4                   means for ascertaining said corresponding format  
5    associated with said particular connection control node by  
6    accessing said database; and  
7                   means    for    translating    said    communication  
8    responsive to said ascertained corresponding format.

1           5.    The system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2                   means for receiving a communication for said  
3 particular connection control node;  
4                   means for ascertaining said corresponding format  
5 associated with said particular connection control node by  
6 accessing said database; and  
7                   means for translating said communication  
8 responsive to said ascertained corresponding format.

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1           6. A system for combining narrowband and broadband  
2 transport mechanisms in a communications network,  
3 comprising:

4           a call control node including switching  
5 intelligence and narrowband switching fabric;

6           a plurality of connection control nodes each  
7 including broadband switching fabric and each being  
8 capable of processing a communication using one of a  
9 plurality of formats; and

10           an intermediate node operatively connectable to  
11 said call control node and said plurality of connection  
12 control nodes, said intermediate node being adapted to  
13 interwork between said call control node and said  
14 plurality of connection control nodes, said intermediate  
15 node further including a database for linking a particular  
16 one of said plurality of connection control nodes with a  
17 corresponding one of said plurality of formats.

1           7.    The system of Claim 6, wherein said plurality of  
2   connection control nodes comprise at least part of a  
3   broadband network.

1           8.    The system of Claim 7, wherein said plurality of  
2   connection control nodes comprise media gateways, and said  
3   intermediate node comprises mediation logic.

1           9.    The system of Claim 7, wherein said plurality of  
2   formats comprises at least one format in accordance with  
3   the H.248 standard.

1           10.   The system of Claim 9, wherein said plurality of  
2   formats comprises a binary format and a text format.

1           11. The system of Claim 6, wherein said intermediate  
2 node is further adapted to receive a communication from  
3 said particular connection control node and ascertain said  
4 corresponding format associated with said particular  
5 connection control node by accessing said database, said  
6 intermediate node being further adapted to translate said  
7 communication responsive to said ascertained corresponding  
8 format.

1           12. The system of Claim 6, wherein said intermediate  
2 node is further adapted to receive a communication for  
3 said particular connection control node and ascertain said  
4 corresponding format associated with said particular  
5 connection control node by accessing said database, said  
6 intermediate node being further adapted to translate said  
7 communication responsive to said ascertained corresponding  
8 format.

1           13. A method for combining narrowband and broadband  
2 transport mechanisms in a communications network,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4           providing a call control node including switching  
5 intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, a plurality  
6 of connection control nodes each including broadband  
7 switching fabric and each being capable of processing a  
8 communication using one of a plurality of formats and an  
9 intermediate node for interworking between said call  
10 control node and said plurality of connection control  
11 nodes; and

12           linking a particular one of said plurality of  
13 connection control nodes with a corresponding one of said  
14 plurality of formats at said intermediate node.

1           14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of  
2 linking further comprises the step of:

3                 linking said particular connection control node  
4 with said corresponding format at said intermediate node,  
5 said corresponding format being a format in accordance  
6 with the H.248 standard.

1           15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of  
2 linking further comprises the step of:

3                 linking said particular connection control node  
4 with said corresponding format at said intermediate node,  
5 said corresponding format being a binary format or a text  
6 format.



1           16. The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of  
2 linking further comprises the steps of:

3               receiving a communication from said particular  
4 connection control node at said intermediate node;

5               ascertaining said corresponding format associated  
6 with said particular connection control node; and

7               translating said communication responsive to said  
8 ascertained corresponding format.

1           17. The method of Claim 13, wherein said step of  
2 linking further comprises the steps of:

3               receiving a communication for said particular  
4 connection control node at said intermediate node;

5               ascertaining said corresponding format associated  
6 with said particular connection control node; and

7               translating said communication responsive to said  
8 ascertained corresponding format.

1           18. A method for processing a communication  
2 associated with a particular one of a plurality of  
3 connection control nodes at an intermediate node in a  
4 communications network combining narrowband and broadband  
5 transport mechanisms, said communications network further  
6 comprising a call control node including switching  
7 intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, said  
8 connection control node including narrowband switching  
9 fabric, said intermediate node interworking between said  
10 call control node and said plurality of connection control  
11 nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

12               receiving a communication from said particular  
13 connection control node at said intermediate node;

14               ascertaining a corresponding format used by said  
15 particular connection control node in processing said  
16 communication, said corresponding format being one of a  
17 plurality of formats usable by said plurality of  
18 connection control nodes; and

19 translating said communication responsive to said  
20 ascertained corresponding format.

1 19. The method of Claim 18, wherein said step of  
2 ascertaining further comprises the step of:  
3 ascertaining said corresponding format at said  
4 intermediate node, said corresponding format being a  
5 format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

1 20. The method of Claim 19, wherein said step of  
2 ascertaining further comprises the step of:  
3 ascertaining said corresponding format at said  
4 intermediate node, said corresponding format being a  
5 binary format or a text format.

1           21. A method for processing a communication  
2 associated with a particular one of a plurality of  
3 connection control nodes at an intermediate node in a  
4 communications network combining narrowband and broadband  
5 transport mechanisms, said communications network further  
6 comprising a call control node including switching  
7 intelligence and narrowband switching fabric, said  
8 connection control node including narrowband switching  
9 fabric, said intermediate node interworking between said  
10 call control node and said plurality of connection control  
11 nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

12               receiving a communication for said particular  
13 connection control node at said intermediate node;

14               ascertaining a corresponding format usable by  
15 said particular connection control node in processing said  
16 communication, said corresponding format being one of a  
17 plurality of formats usable by said plurality of  
18 connection control nodes; and

19 translating said communication responsive to said  
20 ascertained corresponding format.

1 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein said step of  
2 ascertaining further comprises the step of:  
3 ascertaining said corresponding format at said  
4 intermediate node, said corresponding format being a  
5 format in accordance with the H.248 standard.

1 23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said step of  
2 ascertaining further comprises the step of:  
3 ascertaining said corresponding format at said  
4 intermediate node, said corresponding format being a  
5 binary format or a text format.

1           24. The method of Claim 21, further comprising the  
2    step of:  
3           transmitting said translated communication from  
4    said intermediate node to said particular connection  
5    control node.